

REMARKS

Claims 1-25, 96 and 98 are currently pending and allowed. Amendments to claims 96 and 98 are proposed in this Request. Support for the amendments to Claims 96 and 98 are at least found on page 20 and 29 of the specification as originally filed.

The foregoing amendments are requested to provide a proper characterization of the Markush groups of claims 96 and 98. More specifically, all members of this Markush group (i.e. PA, PB1, PB2 and NP) are viral proteins. However, only one member of this Markush group (i.e. the NP protein) is considered a “nucleocapsid” protein. It is therefore more accurate to refer to this Markush group as consisting of viral proteins as per the proposed claim amendments.

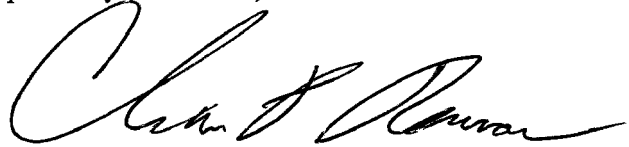
As claims 96 and 98 are limited to the recited members of the Markush group present in the allowed claims, the proposed amendments require no additional search or examination. The Applicants did not present these amendments previously as this particular point was not noticed prior to allowance of the claims.

CONCLUSION

All of the requirements for entry of an amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.312 have been met. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner consider entry of the after allowance amendments to the claims proposed herein. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that a personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is not believed that any fees are required beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in the filing of this Amendment. However, in the event that additional fees are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account 20-0823.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles P. Romano", written over a horizontal line.

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